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Our Flag in the East.

The Philippine Islands under the control of the Stars and Stripes are of value beyond our power now to estimate. Their possession by us for all time is founded upon political logic that is solid and impregnable. They will be to this country like a newly risen sun of greatness and profit.

What any great nation can do of advantage to itself the republic of North America can do, and no nation on the globe retaining its senses would abandon the Philippines if capable of holding them. The obligation to hold them, so suddenly and gloriously imposed upon the Administration, will doubtless be met with a full understanding of its weight and with competence to deal with it.

To no President of the United States has the future of executive power disclosed such momentous and inspiring possibilities as now lie before WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

The Blockade of Havana.

The announcement from Havana that our warships have disappeared from that port has raised an interesting question regarding the blockade which the President proclaimed to the world.

Half a century ago, at the opening of the Mexican war, Secretary MASON laid down, for the guidance of our fleet then blockading the Mexican ports, the rule that a lawful maritime blockade requires "the actual presence of a sufficient force, stationed at the entrance of the ports sufficiently near to prevent communication." The only exception, he said, to this rule was that a temporary and accidental absence of the blockading force, as in the case of a storm, did not suspend the legal operation of a blockade.

These instructions were based on international law, and their rule holds good now. A withdrawal of our ships from Havana for strategic purposes, however desirable, would be unquestionably a renouncing of the blockade. But it is also beyond doubt that if enough force is left to make the entrance to a port dangerous for the neutral vessel the blockade continues, even if the greater part of the investing fleet withdraws. Finally, a blockade may be re-established by the renewal of the proclamation and the return of an adequate blockading force.

As to this renewal, it may be noted that our practice, like that of Great Britain and Germany, is to recognize two kinds of blockade, one formal, under proclamation duly made, and the other no less actual, but without announcement. Under this last a neutral vessel will not be condemned unless she attempts to enter the harbor after being warned off; but it is obvious that in case of the withdrawal of our fleet from Havana or other Cuban ports for the purpose of meeting the Spanish fleet or for any other strategic purpose, the resumption of the blockade could be made without any new proclamation.

In short, even if a greater purpose in view should cause us to suspend for a time the blockade of Havana, when there were no smaller vessels available to keep it up, little harm would probably be done. Before blockade runners could take advantage of it to much extent it could easily be renewed and made binding. Thus far we see no official statement that Havana has been left without a force that would be sufficient for maintaining the blockade in the absence of the remainder for coaling or strategic purposes. The torpedo boats, for example, are not mentioned among the vessels that ran over from Cuba to Key West, and left yesterday after coaling.

City Debts and City Liabilities.

It is gratifying to know that the question raised by Comptroller COLER, in regard to the limit of the city's debt, is in a fair way to be passed upon speedily by the courts. One action has been begun already by an owner of land taken for park purposes, and to whom an award for the value of the land has been made by the Commissioners appointed to appraise it. Another action is to be brought immediately by contractors to whom money is due for work actually performed under a contract with the city, and which the city has accepted. The allowance of the claims thus set up is to be resisted, on the ground that the city's debt already exceeds the limit fixed by the State Constitution, and this creates a plain issue for the courts to decide.

The Constitution declares that "no city shall become *indebted* for any purpose or in any manner to an amount which, including existing *indebtedness*, shall exceed 10 per cent. of the assessed valuation of the real estate of such county or city subject to taxation," and all *indebtedness* in excess of such limitation except that incurred for the supply of water or temporarily to anticipate taxes, is to be void. Heretofore this provision of the Constitution has been construed as applying only to bonds for terms of years, and, in computing the city's debt, no regard has been paid to less formal obligations. This construction is still contended for by the antagonists of the present city Government and is opposed by the Corporation Counsel and his associates.

Evidently, it is idle to appeal to past usage in considering the legal aspects of the case. What previous city officials have done or have not done in incurring indebtedness is of no consequence in determining what they had a right to do. If they have, as a matter of fact and of law, exceeded their power, it is all the more important that their example should not be followed and that their practice should be reversed. It is also important that the Constitution should not, if it is possible to avoid it, be made the instrument of robbing unwary and innocent creditors. People whose lands have been taken and whose buildings have been destroyed, and contractors who have spent their money on works of public utility, must be paid what is due them, even if the Constitution has to be amended.

The whole controversy turns upon the question: What is indebtedness? If it is any sort of liability which has not yet become a debt ascertained and payable, but which may lead to the creation of such a debt hereafter, that is one thing. If it is exclusively obligations already fixed and determined and not subject to contingencies, that is another thing. A contract to pay for work to be done hereafter and which may never be done, cannot be said to create a present debt, any more than a contract to pay rent for a term of years can be said to create a debt for the rent for the whole term. The taking possession of land for a park or a street creates, undoubtedly, a liability for damages, but until the amount of the damages is ascertained and awarded it plainly does not become a debt. For the salaries of its officers and employees, the city is liable to the extent of their terms of office and employment, but those salaries do not become a debt until they have been earned.

Whether the application of this rule will or will not show that the constitutional limit of the city's debt has been exceeded, only a careful scrutiny of the facts will determine, but it ought not to take much time to make this scrutiny, and the sooner it is completed the better.

The Spread of Naval Information in England.

The prompt and generous recognition by the leading naval authorities of Great Britain of the immense significance of Commodore DEWEY's exploit has been manifested in many ways. Yesterday, for example, Vice-Admiral COLOMB, retired, was reported as saying:

"I doubt if there was ever such an extraordinary illustration of the influence of sea power. A superior fleet has attacked and beaten a Spanish fleet supported by batteries, and it now appears that it has passed those batteries and taken up an unassailable position off Manila. The boldness of the American commander is beyond question. Henceforth he must be placed in the Valhalla of great naval commanders. Nothing can detract from the dash and vigor of the American exploit, or dim the glory which DEWEY has shed upon the American Navy. It may be bad for the world, for, assuredly, the American Navy will never accept a subordinate place, after this exhibition of what it can do."

On April 23, just one week before the engagement at Manila, the *New York World* procured and printed the advance opinion of Commander CRUTCHLEY, Secretary of the British Navy League, "expressing not only his personal view, but also that of other leading authorities with whom he had discussed the subject."

Commander CRUTCHLEY predicted that Spain would wait until after the American ships were in position for blockading Cuba and then proceed "to direct one powerful squadron against them with the object of going through them in detail." His general prediction as to the result and significance of the war was thus summarized in the report, partly in his own words:

"He declared that the United States must win in the long run. He was disposed to minimize the lessons to be derived from the war, '*as neither the Americans nor the Spaniards are expert fighters.*'"

This is almost as pleasant reading now, under the circumstances, as are the many certificates coming from British naval sources as to the expertness of Commodore DEWEY and his Captains and officers, and the fighting qualities of his ships and guns and of the splendid tars who man them.

The American Sentiment.

The demonstration of the power of a strong naval force, when ably led and brilliantly manœuvred, which has been furnished by Commodore DEWEY at Manila, settles finally a question almost ceaselessly discussed in Congress since the ending of the civil war. The American navy will now be increased steadily, and the only opposition to it will come from the paltry crowd of peace-at-any-price degenerates. Public opinion will demand that the glorious lesson taught by Commodore DEWEY at Manila shall bear fruit in the development of the United States as one of the greatest naval powers of the world.

Coincidently there must be a corresponding increase in our military establishment on land. This country is entering upon a new departure in the fulfilment of its appointed career. It will have hereafter a new and larger part to play in the drama of events affecting the whole world, and consequently an army sufficient to enable it to fulfil its wider function has become necessary.

The history of this republic since its formation has proved that we have always been ill prepared for the emergency of war, which in the past has occurred at least once in a generation, thus affording in the interval a time for necessary preparation that is none too long. We found out in the war of 1812, in the Mexican war, in the civil war, and we are learning now, that our State militia, no matter how admirable it may be, is not a military force immediately or soon available for the purposes of war. Its proper function is to protect the communities in which it is organized, and it is well fitted for the duty. But it is a force which must go through long training and disciplining before it can be made ready for severe campaigning. A volunteer army called out by the President is always available, for in no country of the world is the military spirit stronger and more general than here. President MCKINLEY called for 125,000 volunteers in this war against Spain; five times that number responded, and the embarrassment the superfluity caused the War Department, because of its inability to utilize so great a force under the law or consistently with the comparatively limited requirements of the exigency, is still great. A volunteer army, however, cannot be made ready for the field without long and severe training. That necessity, always great, is more imperative than ever now under the conditions of modern warfare, more than ever an art requiring expert ability and professional knowledge and experience. Such an army is capable of the best work after suitable training, but immediately it is not available. It cannot meet the requirement of really efficient military service until it has been put through sharp discipline to inculcate in the troops the absolute subordination which is the first essential for effectiveness, even to preserve their health and fortify them against dangers incident to campaigning apart from those which come from the hostile fire, and far greater than they. Officers and enlisted men must be hardened and made familiar by long experience with their duties.

The training of volunteers, moreover, involves enormous expense in money, besides loss of time. As we are finding out now, too, the equipment of a large additional volunteer army imposes a burden on the War Department which it is unfitted to bear. With a small regular army, 25,000 troops, it is unprepared to meet the sudden strain. It cannot supply the requirements of an extemporized force of five times the dimensions of the standing military establishment without vexatious delay, and an extravagance of expenditure which tends to make the volunteer method the most expensive in money we could adopt for the new and larger career now before this country.

Congressmen who are too dull of apprehension to discover that the American spirit is stirred and its imagination inflamed by the opportunity now offered to this country to extend the sphere of its power and influence, and therefore are disposed to continue a provincial opposition to an adequate regular army, always available for use, brought to the highest military perfection, and representative of the pride and conservative force of this nation, will find that they are wanted no longer by the American people. In modern times special ability and aptitude and trained intelligence are needed everywhere more than ever before, but nowhere more imperatively than in the art of military defence.

In no other nation, too, is the material to be drawn upon for the military service so abundant and so high in quality as here. America is potentially the greatest of military nations. The military spirit of the American people is one of their chief distinguishing features. They are distinctly a conquering race, and the maintenance of their rate of progress will require that statesmanship shall utilize that spirit with wise conservatism.

The time for provincial ambitions and parochial politics has passed. The popular mind has been stretched wonderfully during the last few months. It is no longer absorbed with 16 to 1 only, and the petty questions of partisan advantage which are still occupying the thoughts of intriguing politicians are child's play to it.

We have entered upon a period when only the largest statesmanship will be able to rise to a comprehension of the national sentiment of America.

Fireproof Wood for Ships.

One result of the fight in Manila Bay will be to renew the effort to secure for warships interior fittings that are not in danger of catching fire from the explosion of hostile shells. In the burning of the two principal Spanish ships, the Reina Maria Cristina and the Castillo, we have a repetition of the lesson taught by the battle of the Yalu, where several ships were set on fire by shells.

At that time Secretary HERBERT was so impressed with the importance of securing fireproof woodwork for our ships that he discussed the subject at length in his annual report, and appointed a board, consisting of a line officer and two naval constructors, to investigate the subject. This board recommended the substitution of iron for wood in bulkheads and ladders, and also thought that some non-inflammable substitute for wood might be used for ceilings, furniture, berths, and so on.

Then came a further step in the fireproofing of wood, a patented process, and its introduction into some of our ships then building. Of that device high hopes were entertained. The sap of the wood was extracted in vacuum, and then a certain composition was forced into the pores. But even this promising material did not give complete satisfaction. There were drawbacks, one being the alleged absorption of moisture, and, if we do not mistake, this prepared wood was not used in our later vessels.

The problem is a difficult one. Woodwork for the inside of ships is usually more comfortable than metal, and especially because there is less dampness where it is used. But its dangers have always been apparent, and the use of cork paint on metal to prevent the accumulation of moisture was resorted to by us half a dozen years ago. Foreign countries have also studied the question carefully. There have been resorts to sheet iron and even to pasteboard, canvas, calico and a kind of linoleum as coverings for ceilings, cabin bulkheads and other parts of the ship where wood planking is otherwise used. Papier maché would not stand salt water, and one objection to corrugated iron was its tendency to shake.

In the battle of the Yalu a shell exploding on one Japanese ship set fire to the beautiful cabinetwork, and she had to be withdrawn from action, while Capt. McGIFFEN's experience in the burning Chen Yuen is well remembered. The burning up at Manila of the only two Spanish cruisers that ranked above third rates must have practically ended the resisting powers of the fleet. We shall doubtless see, therefore, renewed efforts to replace wood on shipboard by other substances, as far as possible, and to make it non-inflammable where it is retained.

Three Stations in the Pacific.

Honolulu.—Our flag was once over the Hawaiian Islands. It ought to be there now. It was hauled down by Paramount BLOUNT, acting under the orders of GROVER CLEVELAND and executing the policy of infamy.

Pago-Pago.—The maintenance of our treaty rights in the Samoan Islands was deliberately abandoned by the Cleveland Administration, under the same President whose earlier Administration had asserted them and safeguarded them through the efforts of an intrepid and far-seeing American Consul-General at Apia.

Manila.—Our flag is there, and it will stay there.

Look at the map of the Pacific and note the three points, Hawaii, Samoa, and [the Philippines. They signify the command of the western ocean for the protection of the mighty commerce that is to be ours by geographical position and natural right throughout the twentieth century.

These mistakes and these political crimes of the past are fortunately not yet beyond repair. Manila is ours to-day, Honolulu can be ours to-morrow, and our rights at Pago-Pago have not lapsed.

The Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS is once more throwing off sparks from his Olympian wheels. He has raised a regiment, which Governor WOLCOTT cannot accept. Wherefore the Dedham DEMOSTHENES attacks Governor WOLCOTT and sputters vehemently. The Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS has no knowledge of military matters and no known fitness to command a regiment. He should have volunteered as a private. If he is anxious to go to war, he can probably find some fighting in Cuba yet. Other men who have raised regiments have been disappointed in their hopes of service, but we have not noticed that they have made a spectacle of themselves in consequence. We don't doubt Mr. WILLIAMS's patriotism, but he never misses a chance to advertise.

The minute attention now paid to the details of the military art is exemplified by an article on "The Military Shoe" in the *Journal of the Military Service Institution*, published on Governor's Island, by Major H. S. KILBOURNE of the Medical Department of the regular army. He *starts* by laying down the sound dictum that whatever else a soldier may do without or endure on the march he must have suitable shoes, and cannot endure those which are not adapted for the purpose. Thereafter Major KILBOURNE goes into an elaborate and detailed discussion of the shoes best adapted to the soldier, exhibiting long study of the subject, and much knowledge of it derived from experience. Here is an interesting observation:

"The young soldier will take the field with new, unbroken shoes, unless prevented, and march into the first camp with raw feet, all in one day. The veteran is more conservative and fortunate, yet inclined to carry about a pair of extra shoes wrapped in a blanket roll, preserved like a sacred relic, or a fetich, with which to propitiate the inspecting officer on stated occasions of ceremony. Any soldier who has experienced the rest and relief afforded to battered feet after days of hard marching by a change of shoes makes good use of a second pair. It is well to have the second pair of a larger size to ease the swollen feet, but any change brings relief that takes pressure off galled spots and transfers it to less sensitive parts."

It seems that a pair of American service shoes weighs 44 ounces, or a pound and a half less than the 'munition boot of the British service, weighing 64 ounces a pair. Russian, German, and French infantry campaign shoes are heavier and clumsier than ours, yet Major KILBOURNE thinks our pattern could be still further reduced in weight advantageously, seeing that every ounce of surplus weight on the foot tells against the maximum efficiency in marching. He advocates a single sole of hard, firm leather.

The Hon. WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART of Nevada, who must be known to a number of persons as an occasional speaker and writer, leaps into the Hon. J. CLARK RIDPATH's *Arena*, where he waves an article called "The Great Slave Power." The slave power is aggregated wealth; and although he doesn't mention it, Mr. STEWART is somewhat of a slaveholder himself.

Nothing has been heard from the Quo Vadis Progressive Euchre Club of Indianapolis for some time. The literary centre seems to have moved or to have been moved to Minneapolis. The *Times* of that town darkly asserts that "every dilitant in literature holds himself—or more often herself—personally responsible for the explanation of the latest play." The "dilitant in literature" is a form unknown in Indianapolis or anywhere else except in the fortunate Gopher city. Who and how and why and what is the "dilitant"? Unveil.

THE FRENCH EXPOSITION OF 1900.

Interests of American Manufacturers in the Attitude of This Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It has been reported by the Washington correspondents of several reliable papers that there is a grave possibility that Congress will either defeat the bill making appropriation for the coming international exposition at Paris in 1900, or will so reduce the amount of the appropriation as to make the official participation of this Government ridiculous. The reason assigned for Congressional hostility to this measure is the desire of Congressmen to rebuke France for her hostility to us and her friendliness to Spain in the present conflict.

All who are at all conversant with the situation must earnestly deplore any such action as that proposed, or reported to have been proposed. Doubtless the ground upon which French hostility to us is assumed to exist is the attitude of the toad-eating, sycophantic publications that constitute what is known as French journalism. Certainly no exception can be taken to the attitude of the French Government or to the official utterances of responsible Ministers, since these have been quite correct in every particular. Nothing could be more absurd than to suppose that French newspapers reflect public opinion, or that they represent anything but the highest bidder, or, if bribes are not forthcoming, the prejudices and jealousies of the army and navy.

It is notorious that French ignorance of everything beyond their own frontiers—the colony of Algiers excepted—is equalled only by that of the Chinese. This is not that they are a stupid people, but simply because they care nothing whatever about such matters. That the great mass of the French people are hostile to "America," as they term the United States, no one who has lived among them can believe. At present Russia stands first in their affections on account of the somewhat one-sided alliance between the republic and the despotism. Germans, English, Austrians, Belgians, Italians are all disliked by the French people in the order named, the feeling toward the first amounting to hatred, that toward the last manifesting itself chiefly in spiteful treatment on the frontiers and extraordinary injustice and ferocity toward all persons of these nationalities so unfortunate as to have been charged with crime. The reason for the dislike of the border nations is probably largely due to commercial rivalry, and it may be due to the fact that Spain is not much of a rival that she is regarded with greater favor by the populace than are the others. Toward the Americans, whether tourists or business and professional men, I have never observed the slightest spirit of unfriendliness.

So much for the theory that there is a French hostility to be rebuked. As to the method proposed, a word of protest. The reason why this country desires to participate in the forthcoming exposition at all is solely in order to still further extend the reputation of its products and industrial methods. Should we on any silly pretext declare that we "won't play" no one would be more delighted than our keen European rivals, and no one would suffer like ourselves. American machinery, food products, and merchandise of a thousand kinds have invaded Europe within the past four or five years as never before. The exposition offers us an opportunity to place our products side by side with those of all the world, and invite comparison. That such an object lesson will redound vastly to the betterment of our foreign trade cannot be doubted, if private enterprise and Government aid work harmoniously together. The present war will be an object lesson that will penetrate even the French intellect, so obtuse to foreign events and tendencies, and will call the attention of the world to the display of American industries and arts. The blunder of withdrawing Government support for the American exhibit at the Paris Exposition would be a victory for the French mud-squirting editors, the like of which they never won before and hardly will again.

NEW YORK, May 2. AMERICAN TRADE.

Listen to This!

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

The Cherokee boys have invented a yell which they roll out on the air with all the vim of a football team from a college. It runs like this:

Cuba, Cuba, bow, wow, wow.
Liberty, liberty, chow, chow, chow—
Vengeance, vengeance, down with Spain!
Iowa, Iowa, remember the Maine.

The Awakening of Uncle Sam.

"Oh, Uncle Sam," they said, "has grown fat and loves his ease,
And he lingers long at table and distends his growing girth;
The strong arm we used to know has grown sluggard-like and slow,
And they mock his smug indifference to the ends of all the earth.

"As his money bags grow heavy does his love of man grow small,
As his cushioned chair grows softer does his calloused heart grow hard;
He is careless of his fame and the glory of his name,
And the vision of the prophet and the rapture of the bard.

"And the tyrants in their anger lash their slaves before his eyes,
And he turns his sleepy features tow'rd their faces hot with tears,
And he sits between his seas in his soft, voluptuous ease,
And the voices of their torment smite his undiscerning ears."

Ah, the slander of the tongues that proclaimed his heart was cold!
Ah, the error of the dotage that believed his arm was weak!
Ah, the folly, mad and dire, that provoked the slow to ire,
And the pride that's in the careless and the might that's in the meek!

He has risen from his feasting, the old look is on his face,
For the voices of the helpless and the dying throng his path,
For he sees at last their tears and their groans are in his ears,
And his arm is clothed with thunder and his heart is nerved with wrath!

We have wronged him, the forbearing, him the patient, slow to smite,
And we love him more than ever and are prouder of his fame;
And we weep the taunts we uttered and the whispered sneers we muttered—
For his guns before Manila silenced all the tongues of blame.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY.

The Exhibition at the Fine Arts Building, West Fifty-seventh Street.

The arrangement of the galleries at the exhibition of the National Sculpture Society is so original and picturesque that there is some danger of the beauty of the emplacement overshadowing in public opinion the importance of the works themselves. The managers of the exhibition desired to show in so far as it might be done in a temporary installation how sculpture should be used in decoration. The purpose is to exhibit it with appropriate surroundings as in a formal garden, where the effect of a group may be judged to good advantage. In an ordinary exhibition gallery with figures, groups, and busts in regular alignment, such effect is unobtainable. In the charming improvisation in the Vanderbilt gallery such effect is in several cases completely attained, but as a general thing the exhibits are still too close together and so few are really isolated that the impression received is that of an overcrowded garden. But taking the exhibition as a whole, it must be said that it is extremely pleasing, that a deal of good taste and intelligent planning has been expended in the installation, and that probably nowhere else but here has there ever been seen such an attractive sculpture exhibition. It is to be hoped that the very considerable outlay made necessary by the use of so much costly material and such careful construction may be returned to the society by means of heavy gate receipts. All lovers of beauty in the community will be well repaid for their trouble if they go to see the exhibition.

The average of the contributions is very high. The exhibition shows, as was conclusively shown at Chicago in 1893, that American artists have now easily taken the next place to the French in this noble branch of the fine arts. With but few exceptions the works in the present display have been executed since the last exhibition of the Sculpture Society in 1895. With Messrs. French, Bartlett, MacMonnies, Ward, Adams, Hartley, Bitter, Grafly and others among the sculptors of established reputation exhibiting characteristic and fully representative work, we find new men, such as Clement J. Barnhorn of Cincinnati, who shows a fine recumbent figure in plaster, "A Magdalen," No. 13, added to the list of artists who hereafter, if their work fulfils present promise, must be ranked with them. We find a welcome manifestation of the art in the considerable number of statuettes in the exhibition and a surprising amount of cleverness in the treatment, both in bronze and in marble, of low and high relief. It is but a few years ago, comparatively speaking, that an exhibition of American sculpture would have consisted of portrait busts and single figures and nothing else. To-day we find we have sculptors capable of producing fine works of art, not only in these two lines, but in every field of abstract and concrete subjects, in every form of expression, and almost all of their works marked by an indefinable something that proclaims them American. There can be no doubt about it, our sculptors, combining a competent understanding of their *métier*, which has been derived from the sane and vigorous methods of the modern Frenchmen, with a native feeling for form and individual decorative fancy, have formed a school. You would pick out these works at the salon, if they were there, as being American, because, while as good as the average of the French work, they have style of their own. With Italian and British and German work under the same conditions, we should have no trouble either, speaking generally, in distinguishing these also, but they would be noticeable by their inferiority or by their weaknesses as compared to the French, not, as in the case of the American work, by difference in style, with equally good technical treatment.

Mr. French's four works are all notable, but the greatest interest lies in his fine, imposing "Group for the John Boyle O'Reilly Monument" (Boston, Mass.), No. 67, and the recently completed "Statue of Rufus Choate," No. 68. Mr. Bartlett's "Columbus," No. 14, a plaster model for the bronze figure in the rotunda of the Congressional Library; Mr. Adams's "Joseph Henry," No. 4, and his bronze doors for the same place; Mr. Boyle's "Bacon," Mr. Bissell's "Chancellor Kent," No. 25; Mr. Niehaus's "Hahnemann Monument" (Washington, D. C.), No. 145; Mr. Rhind's colossal figures, "Henry Hudson," No. 174, and "Peter Stuyvesant," No. 175, for the Exchange Court building, Broadway, and Mr. Ruckstuhl's "Solon," No. 181, among a number of truly excellent works of kindred subjects, show creative qualities allied with the most capable and convincing execution. Mr. Elwell's "Egypt Awakening," No. 66; Mr. Grafly's beautiful group of two figures, "The Symbol of Life," No. 83; Mr. Isidore Konti's "Inspiration" (no number); Mr. Hinton Perry's graceful figure, "Kirké," No. 154; Mr. Ward's "Indian Hunter," No. 195, and "The Student," No. 201, which crowns the fountain in the Vanderbilt gallery and is exhibited by the special request of the society, and the late Olin L. Warner's delicious bronze statuette, "Diana," No. 109, testify in manifold ways, in grace or in vigor, in imagination or in technical ability, in decorative fancy or in fidelity to the forms of nature, to a degree of skill and an excellence of achievement perfectly well known to the artist world, but that may be taken note of at this exhibition by the general public. They may serve as examples out of a large number of meritorious works. "Portrait, bronze bas-relief of the late Commodore George Coleman de Kay," No. 185, may be instanced as an example of the excellence of the sort of work in the exhibition which is described in its title, and Mr. MacMonnies's "Fountain," No. 130, with its boy holding the flapping mother duck in his arms, while the ducklings surround the pedestal in the centre on which he stands and turtles on the edge of the basin spout streams of water to join the spray falling from the central jets, is not only the best thing of its kind in the exhibition, but is so good in every point of view that it can only be called a masterpiece. In addition to these, with subjects too diversified to be catalogued in detail, visitors may be recommended to study the works exhibited by H. K. Bush-Brown, John Donoghue, Harriet and Anna Hyatt, Bessie Potter, Frederic Remington, Lorado Taft, Enid Yandell, Edward Wilson, E. C. Potter, and Frank Duveneck.

A jury consisting of J. Q. A. Ward, Daniel C. French, Herbert Adams, Karl Bitter, and J. S. Hartley, sculptors, and Thomas Hastings and John G. Howard, architects, yesterday awarded the prizes in the competition for a model for a sun dial to be placed on a lawn or in a park apart from a building. The prizes were given by Thomas H. Kelly of New York, and consist of $500 for the first prize and $250 for the second. Twenty-eight models were entered, all of which are on view at the exhibition. The first prize was awarded to Charles A. Lopez, New York; the second to W. C. Maynard of the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. Four honorable mentions were given—the first to a design unaccompanied by a name corresponding to the cipher, and therefore to an author as yet unknown; the second to Hall W. Morris, New York; the third to Janet Scudder, New York, and the fourth to J. M. Kimball, Brooklyn. One or two designs were received from England.

New England at Manila.

From the Boston Globe.

New England had eighteen naval officers aboard the Yankee battleships which broke the calm and silence of the Sabbath in the harbor of Manila with roar of guns and bursting shells. Despite their Puritanical training in youth they fought just as if it wasn't Sunday. The bells did not call them to church. The summons of the morning was of a different character and to a higher duty.

Maine was represented by one officer, New Hampshire by five, Vermont by two, Massachusetts by four, Rhode Island by two and Connecticut by four. The sailor heroes without any titles cannot be dug out of the long lists at this time, but later, when the smoke has cleared a little, their names will appear in bright and shining letters. Vermont had the honor of furnishing the commander of the fleet.

Finale of the Concert.

From the Denver Times.

"Say, pa," asked a little boy, "what tune will they play at that concert of the powers?"

"'Yankee Doodle,' my son," was all he said.

Same Here.

From the Coosa River News.

War talk and war talk is on tapis here in Centre.

THE STREET SHOW OF FLAGS.

Varied Expressions of Patriotism to Be Observed About the City.

You can look down almost any side street in town now and see flags floating from the house fronts, the dimensions and texture of the Stars and Stripes varying in accordance with the means of the inmates. In streets where incomes are all on a comfortably prosperous basis the flags are uniformly of large size, the red and blue of a dye that neither sun nor rain will affect, and the texture of sufficient body and substance to ripple boldly when the wind strikes it, and neither cling together in a limp string nor twine itself haplessly about the flagstaff. In streets where the moderately well-to-do and the indigent are quartered miscellaneously a discrepancy is noticed in the flags. Some are of cambric thin enough to see through, with the colors neither strong nor well marked, the blue field merging into the stripes, the stars uneven, the red of a mint candy pink, feeble and tawdry. In one house you will see that yard-wide strips of starred and striped paper cambric have been utilized for window curtains, the heads of the women and children inmates looking out from a veritable bower of patriotism. This window-curtain idea obtains chiefly in poor and crowded quarters, and has the advantage of preserving the bunting from the elements as well as of keeping it within familiar touch and sight of the domestic circle.

Many flags on slender toy poles are stuck in the shutter hinges of windows or in between the blind slats of high tenements. Others of these modest emblems are planted in the earth of window boxes, making a brave show either when the sash is closed or raised. Three or four foot-square flags ranged thus in an upper window suggest the children of the family, who own them, and make daily delighted voyages to the street to see how their particular flag conducts itself when the breeze attacks it. A big wooden building on a lower west side corner, with the customary shops below on the street front and the customary partitioned-up living quarters above, is all abloom just now with flags of different sizes and shades. There are three or four window seats high up that are furnished with wooden boxes for window gardening. The scant-colored print curtains drawn across the upper panes show that the occupants of the rooms are not burdened with worldly goods, but as many as four twenty-five-cent flags are planted in the earth-filled boxes on the window sill. About the lintel of the main door of the house below a flag is draped, and from top to bottom the shabby tenement looks patriotic. It is located on one of those curiously irregular out-of-the-way corners on the lower west side, where streets that were straight and disciplined enough over toward Broadway seem to lose all sense of decorum to trip each other up in the scramble to get to the river. Opposite the old wooden house is a double-doored stable with bales of yellow hay choking up one entrance, and the flagstones in front littered thick with wisps of clean straw. The neighborhood is poor, but not squalid.

One afternoon lately a bevy of children, nearly every one armed with a toy flag, danced to a street organ's music on the straw-strewn pavement. Comfortably dressed, bright-faced youngsters they were. The organ was not up to date enough to render "The Star-Spangled Banner," but the primitive, jolly measure of "Yankee Doodle" suited the children quite as well, and the stableman, watching from his seat on a bale or hay in the stable door, threw the grinder a coin to keep him in humor and prolong the fun.

Of all the displays of national feeling and interest, and all the patriotic emblems put out from window and flagpole and door frame, a certain blazonment in Jane street is quaintest. To go and buy a flag all ready to put out is one thing, and to make a national drapery with one's own fingers and at expense of time and intelligence is another. A certain basement lodging in Jane street must receive precedence in matters patriotic. Draped across from one window sill to the other, duly tacked and plaited to keep it in place, is an ample flag, home made, the white stars cut out and sewed, quilt fashion, laboriously to the blue ground work, and the long stripes of red bunting, with the edge turned in, stitched neatly in prim machine stitching to the white ground. The machine stitching is not regular and the white stars are not any two of them alike, either in shape or size. It is possible that the differing glory and geography of the various States in the constellation was borne in mind by the cutter and sewer.

FISHERMEN HURT BY THE WAR.

The Down-Easters Are Said to Be Afraid to Venture to the Grand Banks.

BANGOR, Me., May 4.—The war has knocked the Maine fishing industry out completely, so far as the off-shore fleet is concerned, for none of the Grand Bankers will dare to go to sea, that fishing ground being the most crowded part of the Atlantic and consequently most likely to be watched by the Spanish privateers. Bucksport, Portland, Boothbay, Rockland, Lamoine, and other places along the coast have large capital invested in the Banks fisheries, and the loss of this season's trips will be disastrous to owners and men alike. Even the lobster smackmen are alarmed, and the fishing this year will be confined to shore waters. It is expected that the prices of fish will be very high for a year or more.

The people engaged in the fisheries are hoping that when the war is over and Cuba shall have become a free country, there will be free trade between that rich island and the United States, for it would mean brisk business and big money for them. At present most of the dry and pickled fish sent to Cuba, which is a great consumer, comes from the British maritime provinces, and much of the trade is done in Spanish vessels.

News from Korea!

SEOUL, March 20.—A shipload of Oregon timber has just been landed here, sailing direct. The Russian agent here, Speyer, came very near getting his Government into trouble. His measures were so harsh as almost to produce a conflict. Upon the report of the Japanese Minister to his own Government, Speyer's conduct was reported to the Russian Government, and, in order to remove all friction, Russia agreed to remove her officers, and the Koreans accepted the proposition. The complications arising out of the acquisition of Port Arthur were doubtless too important to permit Russia to attend seriously to the situation in Korea. It is reported that Speyer has been called home.

A contract has been obtained by an American company for an electric street railroad and lighting plant. It was much sought after by agents from other countries, particularly France and Germany.

Balloons on Scouting Ships.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have just received a communication from the Secretary of the Navy concerning an invention which is soon to be adopted. The idea of sending scout boats, such as the Yale and Harvard, on the Atlantic coast suggested to me the idea of ascertaining how a view of a great distance could be had. My invention is to attach and send up a balloon at the rear end of large war vessels used for scouting purposes, so that they may have a great observation of approaching fleets. While it is practically conceded that the greatest distance which can be seen from the lookout of a war vessel is thirty miles, by the arrangement of this balloon at a height of say one thousand or more feet one would have a view of at least one hundred miles. Wires could be arranged which would enable the lookout in the balloon to communicate with the vessel of the approach of the fleet.

The writer of this letter believes that if this idea is adopted it would be of great service to the Navy Department.

I write this letter simply in the interest of the public. J. FLEISCHMAN.

NEW YORK, May 3.

War Will Not Injure Legitimate Business.

From the Boston Globe.

Once we get used to the idea of war enterprising men are going ahead with their business and the hum of industry will continue to be heard in the land. No doubt the weak-kneed, the incompetent and the timid will sit down in their offices, spending most of their time in hunting rumors and dwelling on them until they addle what few brains they have. But the pushing, vigorous business man will go ahead and will, as usual, make money. A war like this, on the whole, as soon as we adapt ourselves to it, ought to make business better for the time being instead of worse, and the first measure of adaptation should be to give the wild-eyed rumor fiend a wide berth and to cease to waste any further time on men who wish to discuss their fears rather than forge ahead and transact business.

The Flag in Florida.

From the Pensacola Times-Star.

The flag that is loved by every American, the prettiest bunting in the world, the emblem of the greatest nation of earth, can be seen on nearly every street in the hands of many children, on the electric cars and hacks, on the handlebars of the bicycle rider, on the railings of porches and wound about the posts thereof, in the lapel buttonholes of hundreds of men and boys, in every direction the eye is cast the Star Spangled Banner is seen waving and fluttering in a manner that seems to be a proud assurance that it has never yet, and will not be, conquered by a foe of liberty.

Boston Garters.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"It is said that the Boston women are wearing red, white and blue garters."

"Of course they are so exclusive that they show their patriotism only in their own immediate circles."

ELIMINATING A CHARACTER.

How the Actual Shooting of a Stage Villain Was Made All Right with the Audience.

From the Kansas City Journal.

"Die, villain!" shouted the brave negro in the climax of the "Midnight Alarm," as he sprang at the throat of the stage rascal, who was on the point of murdering his employer, and pressed a revolver to his face. There was a flash, and then a loud report rang out in the Gilliss Opera House. The villain sank to his knees with a cry of pain, and a stream of blood could be seen trickling down his chin just as the curtain rang down. It was a magnificent effort, and the audience cheered and applauded for an encore, but the curtain was not rung up.

Behind the scenes Eugene Kay, the heavy villain in the play, was holding a big sponge over the left side of his face, while Will H. Everts, who played the part of the negro, was quaking with fear, and actresses in tights and extremely abbreviated dresses ran about through the dressing rooms looking for they did not know what, but they returned with brushes and bottles of face paint, tooth brushes, and bowls of water. One cool-headed actress had enough presence of mind to bring a broom. One of the actors called the police surgeon.

Kay had been shot in the left side of the face with a blank cartridge. The paper on the cartridge had struck him near the nose, while the whole side of his face was filled with powder. At first it was thought the sight of both eyes had been totally destroyed, and the other members of the company were much alarmed. Everts did not intend to pull the trigger when he did, but in his struggle with the "villain" he accidentally pressed the trigger while the muzzle of the revolver was directly in Kay's face. Before the ambulance and surgeon arrived at the theatre it was found that neither eye had been seriously injured, although there were several powder marks on the left eyeball.

The audience did not know but that the agony of the wounded man as he fell on the stage floor was a part of the programme which Kay was able to render very realistic, and, noting this, there was a bustle among the actors to finish the fifth act. It was a question as to what should be done to cover up the absence of Kay in that act.

"He's committed suicide after being captured," announced the director to the anxious actors gathered about him.

"Here's your lines now," he continued, to one of the actors, as he recited a dramatic line to the effect that the villain had committed suicide and robbed them of their game. Then he turned to another and gave out another line, which was to convey the surprise of one of the villain's enemies. And while Kay was being loaded into the ambulance to be taken to Police Headquarters and have the powder picked from his face, the other actors were arranging impromptu lines telling of his death by suicide. Although the fifth act was not exactly in keeping with its sketch on the programmes, the audience was none the wiser after seeing it.

King of Siam Instructs His Subjects.

From the London Daily News.

There is another thing whereof I must warn you. Whatever may be our mutual good will for increasing the prosperity of our country and our mutual love of justice, we may be quite certain that we shall not at once, nor in as short a time as we might wish, eradicate all abuses nor do as much good as we are aspiring for. Even in Europe and in the most prosperous countries I never met with people who were perfectly and unanimously satisfied with the Government and the state of things in their own country. Therefore, let us all make a rule not to complain prematurely, because, notwithstanding our good will and our endeavors, everything is not going on according to our desire. In other words, let us be satisfied with what is possible and only dream of what is perfect.

Finally, let us not exclusively admire what is foreign and despise what is Siamese, nor exclusively admire what is Siamese and despise what is foreign. There is in every country, as in every human being, a mixture of good and evil, and we must try to imitate what is good elsewhere, and at the same time not only to keep but to develop what is good and worthy of respect in our own national character and institutions.

The Land of the Lazy.

From the Washington Post.

"In a late sojourn in Honduras," said Mr. L. B. Givens, "I came to the conclusion that it was a paradise for lazy men. Everything grows luxuriantly with but little labor on the part of the natives, and many crops do not need replanting more than once in eight or ten years. The country offers fine inducements to enterprising men, but it is hard on a white man used to civilized ways to go down there and dwell among an ignorant lot of natives who are 100 years behind the times. A man would have no congenial society, and might as well be in exile. The natives usually live in bamboo houses, though in the towns the dwellings are of adobe. Children go naked for the first two or three years of their life, and the attire of the adults is rather scant. The Government is liberal with concessions in order to encourage development of the country's resources, but there is no general rule governing the granting of privileges; it all depends on how good a bargain may be driven. The climate is very salubrious, and laziness is about the only prevailing disease."

Bargain Day in the Rural Store.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"You say them shoes is wuth $1, but you'll take 75 cents if I pay cash, won't you?"

"Yes."

"Then you'll fling in a pair of woollen socks, I guess?"

"Reckin so."

"Hold on; them shoes hain't got no strings, have they?"

"I'll give you a pair."

"Better make hit two pair; one will soon wear out."

"All right, here they are."

"Looks like you might gimme a pair of suspenders fer good measure."

"Well, rather than miss a trade I'll do it. What else?"

"When a feller buys a bill you allus set 'em up, don't you?"

"Yes; what'll you take."

"Two segars an' a pound o' cheese."

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Chaucer enthusiasts are preparing for a celebration in 1900 of the 500th anniversary of the poet's death.

"The Laird" of Trilby has just died of pneumonia. He was Du Maurier's friend, T. R. Lamont, an associate of the Royal Water Color Society.

Salvini reappeared on the stage for one night at the Vespucci and Toscanelli celebration in Florence. He played the title part in Alfieri's "Saul."

Michael Angelo's book of medical recipes has been discovered in the Vatican. The recipes are mainly those prescribed by the sixteenth century doctors for the artist's sore eyes.

Women bicyclists in St. Petersburg are ordered by the police to wear bloomers or rational dress, as the wind blows too capriciously in Russia's capital for skirts to be worn with decency.

The Hon. John Tyrwhitt, youngest son of Baroness Berners, is under arrest in London charged with having raised a money lender's check and obtaining money on it. He is 22 years of age.

In the palace of the Senate in the Capitol at Rome a number of mediæval frescoes were discovered recently by workmen who were tearing down a partition wall. The colors are bright and the pictures well preserved.

Friedrich Nietzche is reported to be improving. He listens now with apparent interest to the reading of French novels and moves about a great deal. The doctors have some hope of his recovering his mind eventually.

Frankfort and Paris pawnbrokers have found it necessary to enlarge their premises for the storage of bicycles. The Paris municipality has voted $2,600 to convert one of the halls at the Mont de Piété into a bicycle storeroom.

Col. Shervinton, the English adventurer who commanded the Malagasy forces against the French in 1885 and who withdrew from Madagascar when France again invaded the island ten years later, shot himself in London recently.

Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg's creditors at Nice having failed to make her father, the King of the Belgians, pay her debts, have attached the trunks and clothes of her husband, Prince Philip, who is trying to obtain a divorce from her.

A daughter of the Duc de Persigny, Napoleon III.'s accomplice in the coup d'état and Minister of the Interior, has committed suicide at Nice. Her husband recently divorced her after fighting a duel with a young lieutenant who was her lover. She tried to make the latter leave the army and marry her, and on his refusal shot herself through the heart.

A remarkable tale of human fecundity is told by the *London Daily News*. An Italian peasant woman named Granata, married at 28, has borne sixty-two children. She began with a single daughter, followed by six boys at a birth, then by five more, and these by triplets twice and four at a birth. After this she limited herself like ordinary women to single babies and twins, but wound up with another batch of four.

Brugsch Bey has discovered the earliest records of illustrated comic literature in a papyrus of the twenty-second dynasty recently found at Tounah. The drawings are colored and represent animals performing curious antics. In one picture a rat, dressed as a grand lady, is waited upon by a cat as lady's maid, who holds up a mirror to her mistress. In another, a rat appears as a young Egyptian dandy, whose ceremonial peruke is being dressed by an obsequious cat as barber. In a third, a cat figures as a nurse, tenderly carrying a rat in her arms. In a fourth, two jackals wait upon a cow; one jackal carries two milk pails suspended from a yoke across the shoulders, the other empties a pail into a trough over which the cow is bending.